

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 20208 311629Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----046693 011136Z /11

R 311615Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3334

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 20208

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS SO AU

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SALE OF AUSTRIAN ARMS TO SOMALIA

1. AUSTRIAN CHARGE CALLED ON POLCOUNS AUGUST 31 ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM VIENNA TO ASK WHAT INFORMATION WE HAD ON EXTENT OF SOMALI SUPPORT FOR INSURGENTS IN OGADEN. HE EXPLAINED THAT REASON FOR APPROACH WAS THAT AUSTRIAN WEAPONS MANUFACTURING FIRM HAD ASKED FOR AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT'S ADVICE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO SOMALI REQUEST TO PURCHASE ARMS. AUSTRIAN CHARGE ALSO ASKED IF WE THOUGHT SOMALI ASSURANCES THAT WEAPONS WOULD BE USED ONLY FOR DEFENSE COULD BE BELIEVED.

2. DRAWING ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT, WE SAID THAT AS WE UNDERSTOOD IT SOMALI SUPPORT FOR OGADEN INSURGENTS WAS SUBSTANTIAL. HOWEVER, WE EMPHASIZED THAT OUR INFORMATION WAS FAR FROM COMPLETE AND SUGGESTED THAT AUSTRIANS MIGHT WISH TO TAKE UP MATTER IN WASHINGTON. AS FOR CREDIBILITY OF SOMALI ASSURANCES, WE EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM BUT SAID THIS WAS ALSO A QUESTION BEST ASKED IN WASHINGTON.

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3. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY PARTICULAR ADVICE IT WISHES PASSED TO AUSTRIANS, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONVEY IT.
MATTHEWS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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